



MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2019

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- May weather seemed more like March, but the water started to warm up, and we did begin to see some oyster growth.
- Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta took a commercial fishing trip with a local captain to learn more about the dragger fishery for shellfish in our harbor.
- We got our boat back in the water, and Deputy Constable Chris Manulla began boat patrols in the harbor.
- A recreational permit holder volunteered to make three-inch oyster rings out of PVC pipe for us. We bought the pipe, and he made hundreds of rings, which we are giving out for free to recreational shellfishermen with permit sales and on the flats.
- A rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is more than 240 bushels of oysters, almost 50 bushels of quahogs, 52+ bushels of blood clams and upwards of 5 bushels of soft shell clams as tracked on commercial patrol.
- So far, for 2019, we have sold 431 recreational permits, totaling \$23,240. We sold our first seasonal permits this month because the summer season begins June 1 through September 30.
- We estimate that more than 15 bushels of oysters and 3 bushels of quahogs were harvested by recreational harvesters this month.

Enforcement

- The state Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) vibrio control plan went into effect on May 19 and will continue through October 19. Exposure time, ice, shade and tagging are top requirements.
- One verbal warning was given to a commercial harvester for not having enough ice. We helped make a slurry so oysters met vibrio control plan protocols.
- We gave a last verbal warning to a boat owner about proper tagging.
- We gave a verbal warning to a soft shell clam harvester to stop digging in the thatch. We double checked with the Conservation Agent and followed up with him to confirm that the practice was prohibited. He spoke directly to the Conservation Agent and understood how he can and can't harvest clams in beach grass. Positive resolution!
- We received multiple complaints about grant buoys being cut from two grant holders near dragger areas. We are keeping our eyes on this.
- We gave verbal warnings to two fishermen about accurately filling out their tags, and another to two fishermen about following correct purging protocols.
- We spread the word with all commercial harvesters about adding MA to tags from now on per revisions to the state regulations.
- Civetta walked Egg Island making notes of purging cages and tags, and derelict gear, advising those involved.
- We received two complaints of a dragger using a quahog dredge in an oyster area.
- We gave a verbal cease-and-desist order to a recreational permit holder who was offering paid AirBnB experiences for people to harvest oysters and clams from Wellfleet and then take them back to their house and eat them with wine pairings.
- We stopped a visitor from harvesting oysters on Mayo Beach.
- We stopped one recreational fisherman from fishing in Chipman's Cove.
- We gave verbal warnings to two recreational permit holders about how only they are permitted to harvest and they can't let others use their permits to harvest shellfish.

- A few seed warnings were given to recreational harvesters.
- We stopped three people from harvesting oysters without a permit on Lieutenant's Island. We allowed them to go to Town Hall and get a permit and inspected their catch, giving them an oyster ring as a prize.
- Over Memorial Day weekend, two people were found shellfishing with last year's permits. Both were allowed to keep their catch on the condition that they renew their permits on Tuesday. We followed up, and they did.

State and Town Relations

- Mass. Shellfish Officers Assn. president Paul Bagnall came to a Selectboard meeting and presented the Deputy Constables of the Year award to Asst. Constable for propagation Johnny Mankevetch and Deputy Constable Chris Manulla.
- Civetta attended a Mass. Shellfish Officers Assn. "Mass. Shellfish Initiative" subcommittee meeting with constables from four other Cape towns.
- All department staff attended the Mass. DMF vibrio control plan meeting along with commercial harvesters. We made the meeting mandatory for all first-year permit holders.
- Civetta attended a Dredging Task Force meeting, a Shellfish Advisory Board meeting and two Selectboard meetings. At one, she presented the shellfish nursery upweller analysis report.
- Asst. Constable John Mankevetch led the second aquaculture gear beach clean up on Sat., May 11, with Shellfish Advisory Board chair Barbara Austin. Total weight was 0.84 tons (1,680 lbs.).
- We assisted Barnstable County and Roger Williams University with the collection of quahogs from different areas as part of their ongoing disease studies.
- Deputy Constable Andrew Ryan was re-appointed by the Selectboard as a full-time seasonal shellfish constable beginning July 1, 2019.
- Civetta met with Beach Dept. Director and Animal Control Officer about updating beach regulations and fines for dogs on bay beaches.
- We had ongoing issues with the 2016 truck. We decided it was too expensive to fix the A/C, but other issues were resolved.

Propagation

- Civetta and Mankevetch met with the Health and Conservation Agent regarding our MEPA application for cultching Wellfleet Harbor and did a site visit with staff from the National Park Service to demonstrate our plans for cultching the Herring River.
- We received five deliveries of sea clam cultch, which Atlantic Capes Fisheries donates. We pay for the trucking from R.I. to the transfer station where they will overwinter until next year.
- We submitted a grant proposal for \$17,700 to Wellfleet SPAT to help fund our recreational propagation program, which will benefit all shellfish users. The grant was awarded, and the Selectboard voted to accept the funds.
- The department worked with the DPW over four days to pick up 400 bushels of contaminated quahogs and distribute them to Burton Baker Beach and Chipman's Cove using our new barge.
- Mankevetch has been organizing the oysters on our propagation bed and bringing equipment out in preparation for our seed deliveries. He also swept the clam nets.

Respectfully submitted,
 Nancy Civetta
 Shellfish Constable